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**Draft Claim for Discussion Purposes****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/620,498  
Applicant: Yoshio HAGIHARA  
For: IMAGE-SENSING APPARATUS  
Confirmation No.: 3562  
Customer No.: 24367  
Docket No.: 15162/02240  
Filed: July 20, 2000  
Group Art Unit: 2615  
Examiner: Gary L. Solomon

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**DRAFT CLAIM**

Attached is a draft claim corresponding generally to claim 1 to which the limitation of claim 14 have been added. I would like to discuss with you whether this will overcome the rejection in view of Dierickx, Nakamura, and Hynecsek.

1. (DRAFT) An image-sensing apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of pixels, the pixels each comprising:  
a photoelectric conversion portion that has a photosensitive element for producing an electric signal in accordance with amount of incident light and that outputs a signal obtained by converting the electric signal natural-logarithmically; [[and]]  
a lead-out path by way of which the signal output from the photoelectric conversion portion is fed to an output signal line; and  
an integrator circuit that integrates the signal output from the photoelectric conversion portion so that a signal integrated by the integrator circuit is fed by way of the lead-out path to the output signal line; and  
a controller that detects a variation in sensitivity of the photoelectric conversion portion of each pixel by injecting an electric charge into the photoelectric conversion

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**Draft Claim for Discussion Purposes**

~~portion-portion.~~

wherein, during image sensing, the pixels can each operate selectively either in a first state in which the photoelectric conversion portion converts the electric signal linearly and in a second state in which the photoelectric conversion portion converts the electric signal natural logarithmically.

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**Draft Claim for Discussion Purposes**

DAI 325832v.1